

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SS-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 DRC-01 /155 W

----- 089143

R 121450Z OCT 73

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2164

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LOURENCO MARQUES 0701

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, MOPS, MZ

SUBJ: MILITARY BRIEFING

1. SUMMARY: OCTOBER 10, CONSULAR CORPS INVITED TO MEET
COMMANDING GENERAL FOR FIRST TIME. DURING MEETING BRIEFING
ON CURRENT MILITARY SITUATION WAS GIVEN BY SUBORDINATE
OFFICERS. BRIEFING WAS GENERAL IN NATURE, WITH EMPHASIS ON
FREIMO STRATEGY OF EXTENDING OPERATIONS INT NEW AREAS.
END SUMMARY

2. LATE AFTERNOON, OCTOBER 10, CONSULAR CHGD MREPRESENTATIVES
WERE INVITED TO GENERAL HEADQUARTERS FOR FIRST MEETING AS
GROUP WITH NEW COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF MOZAMBIQUE ARMED FORCES,
GENERAL TOMAS JOSE BASTO MACHADO.

3. PRIOR TO SERVING REFRESHMENTS, GENERAL BASTO MACHADO
OFFERED AND CONSULAR CORPS GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED BRIEFING ON
CURRENT MILITARY SITUATION. WE WERE TOLD THAT REGULAR MILITARY
BRIEFINGS WOULD RESUME, PROBABLY ON MONTHLY BASIS, TO BE
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GIVEN BY COL. RAMIRES RAMOS, HEAD OF S.C.C.I. (SERVICE FOR

CENTRALIZATION AND COORDINATION OF INFORMATION, LOCAL MILITARY RESEARCH AND INTELLIGENCE OUTFIT).

4. CURRENT BRIEFING WAS GIVEN BY A LT. COL. (FNU) CRUZ, BELIEVED TO BE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS. IN CONTRAST TO COL. FRADE, FORMER BRIEFER, COL. CRUZ CONFINED HIMSELF TO OVERALL ASPECTS OF SITUATION, AND GAVE NO DETAILS ON NUMBERS OR TYPES OF ACTIONS, CASUALTIES, ETC.

5. NIASA: SECURITY CONDITIONS IN NIASA CONTINUE UNCHANGED WITH LIGHT ACTION ONLY. FRELIMO REMAINS HOLED UP IN AREAS OF DIFFICULT ACCESS SUCH AS SERRA JECI AND MOUNTAINOUS AREAS TO THE EAST. FRELIMO STRATEGY HERE IS TO PUSH SOUTH AND EAST TOWARD NOVA FREIXO AND MAUA WITH EVENTUAL GOAL OF LINKING UP WITH FRELIMO FORCES IN CABO DELGADO, AND EVENTUALLY WITH GUERRILLAS SEEKING MAKE THEIR WAY INTO ZAMBEZIA DISTRICT BY WAY OF MUTARARA AREA IN SOUTHERN TETE. SUCH EFFORTS THUS FAR UNSUCCESSFUL. COL. CRUZ INDICATED THERE HAD BEEN RECENT MEETING OF IMPORTANT FRELIMO LEADERS IN NIASA RESULTS OF WHICH PORTUGUESE HAVE NOT YET LEARNED BUT SPECULATE IT MAY PRESAGE SOME SPECTACULAR FRELIMO ATTEMPTS.

6. CABO DELGADO: ACTION NORTH OF MESSALA RIVER CONTINUES TO CONSIST LARGELY OF SHELLING, AMBUSHING, MINE LAYING. ACTION BETWEEN MESSALA AND MONTEPUEZ RIVERS HAS INTENSIFIED SOMEWHAT WITH ONE PARTICULARLY HEAVY FRELIMO ATTACK AT QUITERAJO NOTED. IN PORTO AMELIA AREA THERE WAS STRONG FRELIMO ACTION AGAINST POPULACE. APPARENT FRELIMO STRATEGY IS TO PUSH PAST LURIO RIVER AND ENTER RICH MOCAMBIQUE DISTRICT. TO THIS END FRELIMO IS MAKING INTENSE EFFORT TO CONTACT, INFILTRATE AND INDOCTRINATE MEMBERS OF LARGE MACUA TRIBE WHICH INHABITS VAST AREA NORTH AND SOUTH OF LURIO RIVER AND WHICH UP TO NOW HAS BEEN PREDOMINANTLY LOYAL TO PORTUGUESE. COL. CRUZ INDICATED PORTUGUESE HAVE DETECTED NUMBER OF CLANDESTINE CELLS IN THIS AREA.

7. TETE: FRELIMO HAS RECENTLY SUFFERED SOME IMPORTANT SETBACKS AS THREE IMPORTANT SECTOR LEADERS HAVE SURRENDERED AND ANOTHER ONE CAPTURED. COL. CRUZ NOTED RECENT FOUR HOUR SHELLING OF VILA GAMITO AND INDICATED FRELIMO SEEMS TO HAVE

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INAUGURATED NEW TACTIC OF DIRECT ATTACKS ON ALDEAMENTOS, IN WHICH WOMEN AND CHILDREN FORM PART OF FRELIMO ATTACKING FORCE. FRELIMO APPEARS TO BE INTENSIFYING INFILTRATION EFFORTS IN AFGONIA AND AREA OF CLADAS XAVIER WITH AIM OF PROCEEDING DOWN INTO SOUTHEASTERN TIP OF DISTRICT AND FROM THERE INTO ZAMBEZIA DISTRICT. ACTION IN REMAINDER OF TETE DISTRICT SEEMS STABILIZED, WHICH DOES NOT EXCLUDE POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER ATTACKS IN THE AREA OF CABORA BASSA DAM AND TETE TOWNSHIP.

8. VILA PERY AND BEIRA DISTRICTS: FRELIMO ELEMENTS ARE STILL IN GORONGOSA PARK AND PUNGUE RIVER REGIONS. HERE FRELIMO APPEARS TO HAVE THREE ALTERNATIVES: (A) TO PENETRATE SOUTH TO TRY TO CUT MOZAMBIQUE-RHODESIAN ROAD AND RAILWAY AND TO WREAK HAVOC IN THE RICH AGRICULTURAL REGION OF CHIMOIO SOUTH OF VILA PERY TOWNSHIP; (B) TO MOVE TOWARDS BEIRA CITY WITH A VIEW TO MAKING MAXIMUM PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT. (IN THIS CONNECTION PORTUGUESE ARE SOMEWHAT CONCERNED ABOUT RECENT INCIDENT ON OUTSKIRTS OF BEIRA CITY IN WHICH THREE OR FOUR BURSTS WERE FIRED AT GUARDS ON A SHELL FILLING STATION. PORTUGUESE NOT CERTAIN WHETHER THIS ATTRIBUTABLE TO URBAN GUERRILLA ACTIVITY OR SIMPLE BANDITRY); (C) TO ADVANCE NORTH-EAST TO CUT TRANS-ZAMBEZIA RAILROAD FROM BEIRA TO MUTARARA AND CARRY ON INTO ZAMBEZIA DISTRICT.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 LOURENCO MARQUES 0701

9. GENERAL MACHADO COMMENTED THAT WHILE GORONGOSA MOUNTAIN AREA IS FAVORABLE TERRAIN FOR FRELIMO ACTION, AND THERE ARE FRELIMO ELEMENTS IN THE AREA, THERE ARE NO PERMANENT BASES BECAUSE OF LOGISTIC DIFFICULTY IN BRINGING DOWN SUPPLIES

FROM ZAMBIA. GENERAL MACHADO INDICATED THAT CHOLERA WHICH HAS BROKEN OUT IN TETE, COULD BE REAL PROBLEM IF IT SHOULD SPREAD TO ALDEAMENTOS. PORTUGUESE MAKING INTENSIVE AND EXPENSIVE EFFORTS TO VACCINATE AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE.

10. COMMENT: WHILE SHELL STATION "ATTACK" IN BEIRA CITY IS INTERESTING DEVELOPMENT, EVEN IF SPONSORED BY FRELIMO ISOLATED INCIDENT OF THIS SORT WOULD NOT HAVE SIGNIFICANT BEARING ON BIG PICTURE. ISOLATED GUERRILLA ACTIONS ANYWHERE, INCLUDING LOURENCO MARQUES, ARE DIFFICULT TO PREVENT, BUT EQUALLY DIFFICULT FOR FRELIMO TO SUSTAIN UNDER PRESENT CONDITIONS. COL. CRUZ EMPHASIS ON FRELIMO EFFORTS TO MAKE HEADWAY WITH MACUA TRIBE AND PENETRATE ZAMBEZIA DISTRICT SEEMS SIGNIFICANT AND MAY BE ATTEMPT TO PREPARE US FOR WHAT PORTUGUESE MAY CONSIDER INEVITABLE SPREAD OF FRELIMO ACTIVITY INTO THESE VITAL AREAS. CONFIDENTIAL

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MY ITALIAN COLLEAGUE TELLS ME HE HAS LEARNED FROM ITALIAN MISSIONARIES SOUTH OF LURIO RIVER THAT SMALL FRELIMO ADVANCE PARTIES HAVE ALREADY FILTERED INTO AREA, PRESUMABLY TO PREPARE WAY FOR LARGER SCALE PENETRATION. VAN OSS

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